

I. Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A side curtain air bag, which includes chambers expanded by gas supplied from a gas generator, and expands and develops into a curtain shape along a side part of a vehicle so as to protect vehicle occupants, the side curtain air bag comprising:

at least one primary chamber which expands by gas supplied by the gas generator so as to protect an occupant;

at least one secondary chamber defining an opening that provides fluid communication between the secondary chamber and the gas generator, the secondary chamber being expandable ~~which expands~~ by gas supplied by the gas generator, the opening being sized such that ~~and wherein~~ the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop ~~is expanded and developed~~ after the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed by gas from the gas generator; and

at least two tethers, each tether having one end attached to the side curtain air bag at a joint end and the other end attached to a vehicle at a fixation end,

wherein, when the side curtain air bag is expanded and developed, the primary chamber and the secondary chamber are arranged such that a portion or all of the primary chamber and a portion or all of the secondary chamber respectively overlap a virtual band, the virtual band being formed along a virtual line connecting the respective joint ends of the pair of at least two tethers, the virtual band defining a region where tension is applied across the side curtain air bag when the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed and the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The side curtain air bag according to claim 3, wherein the ~~secondary chamber includes an opening~~ of the secondary chamber is in fluid communication ~~communicating~~ with the primary chamber, the secondary chamber being expanded by an inflow of the gas from the primary chamber.

6. (Currently Amended) A side curtain air bag, which includes chambers expanded by gas supplied from a gas generator, and expands and develops into a curtain shape along a side part of a vehicle so as to protect vehicle occupants, the side curtain air bag comprising:

at least one primary chamber which expands by gas supplied by the gas generator so as to protect an occupant;

at least one secondary chamber defining an opening that provides fluid communication between the secondary chamber and the gas generator, the secondary chamber being expandable ~~which expands~~ by gas supplied by the gas

generator, the opening being sized such that and wherein the secondary chamber beings to substantially expand and develop ~~is expanded and developed~~ after the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed by gas from the gas generator;

at least two tethers, each tether having one end attached to an attachment point on the side curtain air bag at a joint end and the other end attached to a vehicle at a fixation end, in ~~the~~ a forward and backward direction of the vehicle,

wherein, when the side curtain air bag is expanded and developed, the primary chamber and the secondary chamber are arranged such that a portion or all of the primary chamber and a portion or all of the secondary chamber respectively overlap a virtual band, the virtual band being formed between a first virtual line connecting respective upper ends of the attachment points of the tethers and a second virtual line connecting respective lower ends of the attachment points of the tethers, the virtual band defining a region where tension is applied across the side curtain air bag when the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed and the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The side curtain air bag according to claim 6, wherein the ~~secondary chamber includes an opening~~ of the secondary chamber is in fluid communication ~~communicating~~ with the primary chamber, the secondary chamber being expanded by an inflow of the gas from the primary chamber.

9. (Currently Amended) A side curtain air bag, which includes chambers expanded by gas supplied from a gas generator, and expands and develops into a curtain shape along a side part of a vehicle so as to protect vehicle occupants, the side curtain air bag comprising:

at least one primary chamber which expands by gas supplied by the gas generator so as to protect an occupant;

at least one secondary chamber defining an opening that provides fluid communication between the secondary chamber and the gas generator, the secondary chamber being expandable ~~which expands~~ by gas supplied by the gas generator, the opening being sized such that ~~and wherein~~ the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop ~~is expanded and developed~~ after the primary chamber is approximately fully expanded and developed by gas from the gas generator; and

at least two tethers, each tether having a joint end attached to the side curtain air bag at an attachment point on the side curtain air bag and a fixation end attached to a vehicle; in the forward and backward direction of the vehicle,

wherein, when the side curtain air bag is expanded and developed, the primary chamber and the secondary chamber are arranged such that a portion or all of the primary chamber and a portion or all of the secondary chamber respectively overlap a virtual band, the virtual band being formed between a first virtual line connecting an upper end of the attachment point of one tether and the fixation end of the other tether, and a second virtual line connecting ~~[[the]]~~ respective lower ends of the attachment points of the tethers, the virtual band defining a region where tension is applied across the side curtain air bag when the primary chamber is

approximately fully expanded and developed and the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The side curtain air bag according to claim 9, wherein the ~~secondary chamber includes an~~ opening of the secondary chamber is in fluid communication ~~communicating~~ with the primary chamber, the secondary chamber being expanded by an inflow of the gas from the primary chamber.

12. (New) The side curtain air bag according to claim 3, wherein pressure in the primary chamber has reached a maximum value before the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop and the primary chamber continuously decreases in pressure as the secondary chamber expands and develops.

13. (New) The side curtain air bag according to claim 6, wherein pressure in the primary chamber has reached a maximum value before the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop and the primary chamber continuously decreases in pressure as the secondary chamber expands and develops.

14. (New) The side curtain air bag according to claim 9, wherein pressure in the primary chamber has reached a maximum value before the secondary chamber begins to substantially expand and develop and the primary chamber

continuously decreases in pressure as the secondary chamber expands and develops.